(c) the action taken to make them high yielding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The normal economic age of tea bushes is 50 years, beyond which the productivity goes down. As per studies undertaken by the Tea Board, around 2,12,000 hectares of tea area have to be targeted for replantation/rejuvenation over the next 15 years. Government is examining ways and means of introducting a programme for massive replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes. The objective of this programme is to address the issue of ageing tea plantations which has resulted in a progressive reduction in yield and help in reviving the fortunes of the Indian tea industry in terms of increase-in yield, improvement in quality and in overall reduction in cost of production. The detailed costing and modalities of funding such a large programme, including the setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund, is under consideration.

Three-phase implementation of reforms to help manufacturing sector

2287. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion has been received by Government for three-phase implementation of reforms to help manufacturing sector to achieve international competitiveness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this calls for labour and tax reforms etc. and flexibility in the existing norms; and

(d) if so, action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Flaws in data relating to exports and product classification

2288. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that data relating to exports and product classification (ITCHS) were found to be seriously flawed resulting in wrong projections and calculations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, including the loss suffered on this account, sector-wise; and

(c) what measures have been taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Exporters do not always furnish correct codes in the Customs documents (Shipping Bill) due to lack of awareness about ITC Harmonised System of Classification of Export and Import Items. Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) through its validation programme generates list of such errors and rectifies them before releasing trade statistics.

(c) All Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards in association with Directorate General of Foreign Trade and DGCI&S are organizing workshops on the subject of quality trade data and the exporters/importers are being sensitized through an outreach programme.

Suggestions of UNCTAD

2289. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nations' Conference on Trade Development has asked India to accelerate the development of its manufacturing industry instead of concentrating on IT based services, to maintain its GDP growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to ensure further productivity gains in manufacturing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Trade and Development Report (TDR) 2005 published by United Nations' Conference on Trade Development (UNCTAD) echoes the sentiment